

# **United States Air Force** **ONLINE** **news**

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## AF streamlines program

■ **Active Duty**  
*Service Commitment  
program simplified,  
standardized*

WASHINGTON — In response to concerns from the field, Air Force leaders have simplified and standardized the active duty service commitment policy — making it less cumbersome and easier to understand.

Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan approved the new ADSC plan.

"The new ADSC Air Force instruction and tables are simple and easy to understand," Secretary Peters said. "But, more importantly, they are designed to be fair to the individual service member. This is simply the right thing to do — nothing can be more devastating in my mind — than not treating people fairly."

The revision comes after a month-long re-



*The Air Force recently adjusted the active duty service commitments incurred by service members for advanced flying training, education and training, and promotions.*

view by an integrated process team appointed by the secretary and chief to fix the ADSC problems. Led by Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok,

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## Readiness Challenge VII ends

■ **AF Space Command**  
**takes home top honors**

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Air Force Space Command won top honors in the Readiness Challenge VII competition which wrapped up May 5. The week-long biennial event features civil engineer, services and chaplain service competitors.

Space Command captured the Brig. Gen. William T. Meredith Trophy, topping 15 other teams. Pacific Air Forces placed second, followed by Air Mobility Command.

More than 400 participants showcased skills needed in wartime, or contingency situations, by demonstrating their ability to set up and

maintain support operations under bare base, wartime field conditions. Events covered a spectrum of wartime skills from force beddown to base recovery. Chaplain competitors were tested on their ability to serve the spiritual and counseling needs of service members in a contingency environment.

"The training team members received prior to and during Readiness Challenge VII will enhance their ability to perform in every contingency," said Lt. Col. Nathan G. Macias, commander of Det. 1, 823<sup>rd</sup> RED HORSE Squadron, which supported events and judged the competition.

Twelve U.S. and four international teams competed this year. This was the fourth com-

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## NEWSBYTES

### Ralston takes over EUCOM

MONS, Belgium — Gen. Joseph W. Ralston replaced Army Gen. Wesley K. Clark May 2 as commander, U.S. European Command, in Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany. The next day, he donned his second hat as supreme allied commander Europe, NATO's top military slot. The former vice chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Ralston now oversees peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and Bosnia.

Under his EUCOM hat, General Ralston said quality of life in the command is a priority concern. He said his mission is to make the best case possible to Congress that U.S. service members and families in Europe need upgrades in infrastructure and facilities.

### Wanted: AF sharpshooters

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force Shooting Team needs at least 30 new members for the 2001 competitive season. The team consists of active-duty members participating in nine disciplines: action pistol, American skeet, high-power rifle, international pistol, international rifle, international skeet, international trap, national pistol, and running target. Those interested should contact their local base fitness center.

### AF crews in NATO exercise

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Six C-130s left Italy April 28 and headed for Hungary where they air dropped 100 paratroopers from the Southern European Task Force into an unfamiliar drop zone as part of Exercise Ardent Ground 2000. The airdrop included two howitzers and two humvees.

Ardent Ground is an annual NATO live-fire exercise led by Allied Forces Central Europe Mobile Forces. Participants include military forces from the United States, Hungary, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.



## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at

<http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published.

Letters may be edited for grammar and length.

Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

**Due to the length of the editorial, Letters to the Editor are only available online this week.**

## Show me the money!

The Air Force is now giving

\$5,000 sign-up bonuses. Some readers agree, some don't. Another reader disagrees with equitable bonuses. Go online to get their comments.



by **F. Whitten Peters**, *secretary of the Air Force*, and **Gen. Michael E. Ryan**, *Air Force chief of staff*

**A**fter years of dealing piecemeal with repeated problems related to active-duty service commitments, we decided there had to be a better way. Our airmen deserve a system they can understand.

We formed a tiger team to overhaul the entire ADSC system. The charge to the team was explicit: Make it simple! Led by Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok, deputy chief of staff for plans and programs, the group has exceeded even our high expectations.

With help from across the Air Force, the team produced a new Air Force instruction that will be published June 1. Gone are page after page of charts and rules. In their place is a simple, two-chart instruction, with rules written in plain English. All service commitments will be in one instruction. There will be no more major command supplements and confusing references.

We also standardized service commitments and removed those that don't make sense today. For instance, why require a service commitment for promotion when, by law, commissioned officers must remain on active duty for three years to retire in that grade? The same common sense approach led us to eliminate the service commitments for any training class that lasts fewer than 20 weeks. That one move eliminates 95 percent of the ADSCs generated by technical training.

Equally important, we are creating a system that assumes our airmen are people of honesty and integrity who will live up to their commitments.

We were determined that the ADSC overhaul be accomplished quickly. From start to finish, we've been at this less than three months. But we did need to guard against unintended consequences and "gotchas" and to seek out the opinions of those who will work under the new rules.

That's why we took the time to assemble a "Red Team" of 30 airmen from all commands and walks of Air Force life. They reviewed the proposed changes and then split into two teams to apply the new rules — without help from anyone — to 15 scenarios.

Each team got 14 of 15 correct. They both missed the same one, and we have rewritten that part of the instruction to make it clearer. The Red Team also made a number of more

general suggestions that were incorporated into the final version of the instruction. Their input was invaluable.

As with any major decision, we had to make tough choices. For standardization, some ADSCs are increased in the new instruction. There aren't many and we believe those changes are justified. We also had to decide who would be affected by the new rules.

After weighing the needs of the Air Force and the nation against the desires of our airmen, we decided the new service commitments will apply only to people who sign commitments after June 1.

Unfortunately, we cannot afford to apply new rules to people who signed commitments under the old system. We have already relied on those commitments in making our force management plans, and it is just too difficult to "unring the bell." We are convinced our airmen understand this.

For those who feel an injustice has been done in the past or in the way these new rules are being implemented, we have given the commander of the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas wide latitude to grant relief. We have discussed with him what needs to be done, and we are all committed that this new system will be fair to both airmen and the taxpaying public. That commitment will guide the implementation process.

Nothing is more devastating to retention than treating people unfairly. Our goal for the past two and a half years has been to ensure the Air Force is a great place to work. This means more than lowering operations tempo, improving the quality of housing and raising pay. It also means ensuring our Air Force treats its people right.

You give us a great deal. We demand integrity, selfless service, and excellence from everyone on our great team. You have every right to expect the same in return.

We are the world's greatest Air Force because of your dedication. Thank you for your service; you are truly the best and brightest our nation has to offer. We're honored to serve on your team.

### Active Duty Service Commitment

Then

Now

**GUIDELINES CHANGE** Effective June 1, 2000, all active duty service commitments will be outlined in a two-chart instruction in plain English. The new instruction applies to people who sign commitments after June 1. The new tables will be available by May 13 at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>

Graphic by SSgt. Cheryl Toner



# AF investments pay off

## ■ Service success reflects past 10-15 years

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters said last year's Kosovo operations reflect the investments the Air Force has made in the past 10 to 15 years in precision weapons and equipment capabilities on the mobility front.

"I think what we've done ... is develop all the basic systems we need to be an expeditionary force," he noted. "We saw it in Kosovo when we setup 21 bases very quickly."

The secretary said the Air Force has learned to adapt quickly to deployments and contingencies since the Gulf War. "We've actually made a lot of improvements in how to get our forces out more quickly, and to be more effective and to be able to fight once we get there, or to deliver humanitarian supplies."

"The good news is we know how to do (expeditionary operations)," he said, adding, "the bad news is now that we can do that, people want us to continue doing it."



A 494th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron member checks the pressure of nitrogen being supplied to the front landing gear tire of an F-15 Eagle.

"I believe — over the next decade and probably longer — we will be more involved in these expeditionary operations than any other kind. This means we are likely to be moving out to air bases we don't normally operate from for a period of time, either for combat or humanitarian relief, and then come home."

In order to respond to this type of scenario, Secretary Peters said there are three fundamental things the Air Force has to accomplish

One, the service has to be ready for a major theater war on very short notice. Two, the Air Force has to be able to do its day-to-day operations as dictated by the nation's command authorities. Three, the service must sustain its force.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## AF makes two historic changes

### \$10K to new recruits for loans

For the first time in its history, the Air Force is offering eligible new recruits up to \$10,000 toward repaying their college loans. Also, the service is offering an additional \$5,000 enlistment bonus to people entering one of more than 100 selected career areas between now and May 31. These incentives are in addition to any existing bonuses they may already be receiving.

"We're excited to offer this great new incentive to America's young men and women," said Carol DiBattiste, under secretary of the Air Force. "This is just the beginning of many incredible benefits our people enjoy. In addition to tremendous job training, immediate responsibility, and educational and leadership opportunities, our talented men and women enjoy serving their country and being part of the most powerful and respected aerospace force in the world."

*Complete versions of both of the above articles are available online.*

### Looking to sister services

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is opening its doors to former sister service members who qualify to join.

Until now, former soldiers, sailors, Marines and members of the Coast Guard could only enter the Air Force if they held specialties in a very narrow series of career fields. The new policy allows for all eligible people with compatible career fields to join the Air Force.

"This program creates a win-win situation for both the Air Force and the sister service member," said Chief Master Sgt. Dan Roby, chief of enlisted accession policy at the air staff. "Previously, we have turned away many of these individuals due to the fact that our recruiting and retention numbers did not reflect a valid need. Now we have holes to fill in many career fields that these individuals may be able to step right in to fill."

## AF streamlines ADSC program

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deputy chief of staff for plans and programs, the team was tasked to come up with a plan to simplify and standardize ADSCs.

"Our guidance to the IPT was simple," said General Ryan. "Create an easily understood program that is fair and equitable to the Air Force and its members."

During review of the existing program, the team found the rules and tables governing ADSCs to be complex and ambiguous, often contributing to incorrect documentation. The new program lets airmen plan their careers while allowing the Air Force to manage force requirements.

"We took the ADSC AFI from 15 tables and 189 rules down to only two tables and 34 rules," explained General DeKok. "Our primary premise was simplicity."

"The ADSC program, however, should also not nickel-and-dime our troops for service owed, but rather be a tool that shows a mutual faith and trust for our service to our country," he said. "The new program puts the trust back where it belongs — in our people."

The major changes hit three primary areas: advanced flying training, education and training, and promotions. Changes to flying training include standardized pilot commitments of 10 years — regardless of weapon system or major command — and eliminating ADSCs for in-unit training.

Additionally, 95 percent of education and training ADSCs were eliminated for courses under 20 weeks. This involved approximately 5,600 courses. ADSCs will also move to a standardized three years for all courses over 20 weeks. This includes Air Force Institute of Technology masters degree programs. AFIT doctorate programs will stabilize at a five-year commitment, and ADSCs will be eliminated for Squadron Officer School.

Federal statutes govern time-in-grade retirement requirements for senior officers. Given these statutory mandates for officer retirements, the previous two-year ADSC associated with promotions for major through colonel was not needed and has been eliminated.

Given the absence of comparable statutory restrictions on enlisted time-in-grade retirement requirements, and Defense Department regulatory requirements that senior noncommissioned officer promotions carry an ADSC, the two year ADSC remains for promotions to E-7, E-8 and E-9.

Air Force members will maintain their current ADSCs — as reflected on the signed Air Force Forms 63 in their personnel files. When the new AFI goes into effect June 1, airmen will move under the new rules as they sign new ADSC commitments.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*



# Rodeo 2000 in full swing

By Staff Sgt.

**Pamela Smith**

*Rodeo Roundup staff*

**POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C.** — After opening ceremonies and a few events May 7, Rodeo 2000 hit full swing May 8 when most teams got their first taste of competition.

"We practiced many times and were well prepared," said Senior Airman Larry Potter, a KC-10 crew chief from the 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire AFB, N.J., whose team participated in the refueling portion of the competition. "We did well on our preflight and on the flight itself and there's no reason we can't do well on everything else and win something to take home."

Besides refueling, other aerial events included the personnel and heavy equipment drops and short field landing.

Security forces troops got their first taste of the combat tactics, combat rifle and combat handgun courses, and it should have been what they were expecting, said Chief Master Sgt. William Pisel, assistant chief combat officer for the rifle event.

"We build the courses tough, but within the perimeters of training," he said. "This is no different than what's expected on the field any other time. It's all about training."

Members of the aerial port teams were evaluated on engine running on/off load, joint inspection, and passenger and cargo data tracking capabilities. The teams will also compete in the 10K-forklift skills competition, which is a new event this year. A two-man team must



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Zunzanyika

*Senior Airman John Taylor, assigned to Charleston AFB, S.C., lowers the maintenance platform in preparation of the pre-flight inspection portion of Rodeo 2000.*



**Rodeo 2000**

Check it out online at  
<http://public.scott.af.mil/hqamc/Rodeo2000/RODEO2000.htm>

maneuver their way through 14 strategically placed orange cones in a 10K forklift carrying a pitcher of water on a two by four. The goal is to see which team can steer through the cones fastest without knocking any over. If a tie is declared, judges will declare a winner by measuring whose water pitcher spilled the least amount.

"The event is to simulate moving sensitive cargo," said Rodeo umpire Senior Airman Seth Abel, 43rd Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, N.C.

Aeromedical events Monday included equipment demonstrations, medical scenarios and aircraft configuration.

The competition began May 7 for some maintainers who were evaluated on pre-flight and post flight inspections and fuel service operations.

"Our first day went great," said Master Sgt. Brian Wels, a maintainer from the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, Calif. "We'll continue to do well and just wait and see what happens."

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## Boeing 757 tests F-22 Raptor avionics

**WASHINGTON** — Boeing is using an unusual-looking aircraft to flight-test the highly advanced, integrated avionics developed for the Air Force's F-22 Raptor.

The F-22 Flying Test Bed, a modified Boeing 757, offers several benefits to the development program, said Capt. Adam Kalb, F-22 program integrator at Boeing.

"Since the F-22 avionics aircraft won't be available for flight test until later this year, the flying test bed gives (Boeing) a chance to test the avionics software under actual flight conditions long before it is ever installed in the Raptor," he said.

The test bed reduces risk, as well as future flight-testing hours by enabling extensive in-flight testing, evaluation and troubleshooting, said Boeing officials.

According to a Boeing spokesman, there is enough room on the aircraft for up to 30 software engineers and technicians who can evaluate the avionics, identify anomalies and, in some cases, address these anomalies, in real time.

"This flying laboratory allows (Boeing) to solve problems long before the avionics and software fly in the F-22," Captain Kalb said.

*This article is available in entirety online.*

## Readiness Challenge VII wraps up

**continued from Page 1**

petition for Canada and the second for the United Kingdom. Japan and Norway competed for the first time.

The expanding role of foreign teams in Readiness Challenge gives added value to the training, Colonel Macias said. "The participation of international teams strengthens the bonds with our allies and reflects the increasing tempo of operations involving cooperation among allies."

For a complete list of winners, go to [www.afcesa.af.mil](http://www.afcesa.af.mil)



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